

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 00299 181419Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9145

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0299

FOR ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.)
SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT: TALKING POINTS FOR CALL ON CHIEF OF STATE
AND FONMIN

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 0205

1. IN ADDITION TO THOSE ISSUES DESCRIBED REFTTEL, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT
GOH WOULD FIND OF INTEREST A REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BELIZE
SITUATION AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S LATIN AMERICAN POLICY. EVENTS IN
NICARAGUA ARE NOW VERY MUCH ON THE GOVERNMENT'S MIND, AND THE
FOREIGN MINISTER WILL PROBABLY ASK HOW THE U.S. VIEWS THAT SITUATION.

2. EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF YOU WERE TO RAISE
WITH GENERAL MELGAR THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF THE HONDURAN AIR
FORCE. WHILE THE USG CERTAINLY RECOGNIZES THE GOH'S RIGHT TO
ARM AND DEFEND ITSELF, IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT ONLY THE HONDURAN AND
SALVADORAN AIR FORCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA CAN BE DESCRIBED AS
COMBAT READY. HONDURAS HAS THE ACKNOWLEDGED SUPERIOR AIR
FORCE. CONTINUED PURCHASES OF SUPER MYSTERE'S CAN ONLY
ENCOURAGE EL SALVADOR TO CONSIDER FURTHER ACQUISITIONS AT A MOMENT
WHEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR RESOLUTION OF THE BORDER DISPUTE ARE
BEGINNING AND APPEAR MOST HOPEFUL. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE MEMO'S SENT RECENTLY BY ARA TO PM AND TO
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THE SECRETARY ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. THE GOH HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN A SERIES OF RECENT NARCOTICS
CASES IN WHICH THE U.S. COAST GUARD HAS SEIZED HONDURAN FLAG
VESSELS SUSPECTED OR CARRYING NARCOTICS ON THE HIGH SEAS. WITH GOH
PERMISSION, THE VESSELS WERE BOARDED, NARCOTICS ENCOUNTERED, AND
THE VESSELS AND CREWS TAKEN TO A U.S. PORT FOR LEGAL DISPOSITION.

YOU MAY WISH TO MENTION THIS COOPERATION AND THE GOH'S
SEEMING DETERMINATION THAT ITS FLAG (OF CONVENIENCE) VESSELS
NOT BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. FYI: TO DATE THE VESSELS SEIZED
HAVE BEEN BUILT, OWNED AND CREWED BY COLOMBIANS. ALSO,
HONDURAS APPEARS TO BE EMERGING AS A SPRING-BOARD FOR NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKING TO THE U.S. YOU COULD EXPRESS HOPE THAT FULLEST GOH
COOPERATION WILL ALSO BE FORTHCOMING IN EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS SUCH
ACTIVITY. YOU MIGHT NOTE, ADDITIONALLY, THE GOH WELCOME
INITIATIVE DURING 1977 TOWARD ADOPTING A MORE EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS
CONTROL LAW AND ENCOURAGE ITS EARLY PROMULGATION.
JARAMILLO

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